

General Services Administration

§ 105-8.160

completed. If the delay in completing the action results in or continues the inaccessibility of the requesting agency's program, GSA and the agency shall, after consultation, take interim measures to make the agency's program accessible.

(c) If GSA determines that it is unable to take the requested action, GSA shall—

(1) Within 30 days, set forth in writing to the requesting agency the reasons for denying the agency's request, and

(2) Within 90 days, propose to the requesting agency other methods for making the agency's program accessible.

(d) Receipt of a copy of an occupant agency's transition plan under section 504 shall constitute notice to GSA of the requested actions in the transition plan and of the times frames which the actions are required to be completed.

§ 105-8.154 Program accessibility: Exceptions.

Sections 105-8.150, 105-8.152, and 105-8.153 do not require GSA to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where GSA personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens. The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the Administrator or his or her designee after considering all resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity, and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that individuals with handicaps receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

§§ 105-8.155—105-8.159 [Reserved]

§ 105-8.160 Communications.

(a) The agency shall take appropriate steps to ensure effective communication with applicants, participants, personnel of other Federal entities, and members of the public.

(1) The agency shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids where necessary to afford an individual with handicaps an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a program or activity conducted by the agency.

(i) In determining what type of auxiliary aid is necessary, the agency shall give primary consideration to the requests of the individual with handicaps.

(ii) The agency need not provide individually prescribed devices, readers for personal use or study, or other devices of a personal nature.

(2) Where the agency communicates with applicants and beneficiaries by telephone, telecommunication devices for deaf persons (TDD) or equally effective telecommunication systems shall be used to communicate with persons with impaired hearing.

(b) The agency shall ensure that interested persons, including persons with impaired vision or hearing, can obtain information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities.

(c) The agency shall provide signage at a primary entrance to each of its inaccessible facilities, directing users to a location at which they can obtain information about accessible facilities. The international symbol for accessibility shall be used at each primary entrance of an accessible facility.

(d) This section does not require the agency to take any action that it can demonstrate would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens. In those circumstances where agency personnel believe that the proposed action would fundamentally alter the program or activity or would result in undue financial and administrative burdens, the agency has the burden of proving that compliance with § 105-8.160 would result in such alteration or burdens.

The decision that compliance would result in such alteration or burdens must be made by the Administrator or his or her designee after considering all agency resources available for use in the funding and operation of the conducted program or activity and must be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for reaching that conclusion. If an action required to comply with §105-8.160 would result in such an alteration or such burdens, the agency shall take any other action that would not result in such an alteration or such burdens but would nevertheless ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, individuals with handicaps receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

§§ 105-8.161—105-8.169 [Reserved]

§ 105-8.170 Compliance procedures.

§ 105-8.170-1 Applicability.

Except as provided in §105-8.170-2, §§105-8.170 through 105-8.170-13 apply to all allegations of discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs or activities conducted by the agency.

§ 105-8.170-2 Employment complaints.

The agency shall process complaints alleging violations of section 504 with respect to employment according to the procedures established by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 29 CFR part 1613 pursuant to section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791).

§ 105-8.170-3 Responsible Official.

The Responsible Official shall coordinate implementation of §§105-8.170 through 105-8.170-13.

§ 105-8.170-4 Filing a complaint.

(a) *Who may file a complaint.* Any person who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination prohibited by this part may by him or herself or by his or her authorized representative file a complaint with the Official. Any persons who believes that any specific class of persons has been subjected to discrimination prohibited by this part and who is a member of that class or the authorized representa-

tive of a member of that class may file a complaint with the Official.

(b) *Confidentiality.* The Official shall hold in confidence the identity of any person submitting a complaint, unless the person submits written authorization otherwise, and except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this part, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or proceeding under this part.

(c) *When to file.* Complaints shall be filed within 180 days of the alleged act of discrimination. The Official may extend this time limit for good cause shown. For purposes of determining when a complaint is timely filed under this section, a complaint mailed to the agency shall be deemed filed on the date it is postmarked. Any other complaint shall be deemed filed on the date it is received by the agency.

(d) *How to file.* Complaints may be delivered or mailed to the Administrator, the Responsible Official, or other agency officials. Complaints should be sent to the Director of Civil Rights, Civil Rights Division (AKC), General Services Administration, 18th and F Streets, NW., Washington, DC 20405. If any agency official other than the Official receives a complaint, he or she shall forward the complaint to the Official immediately.

§ 105-8.170-5 Notification to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

The agency shall prepare and forward comprehensive quarterly reports to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board containing information regarding complaints received alleging that a building or facility that is subject to the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151-4157), is not readily accessible to and usable by individuals with handicaps. The agency shall not include in the report the identity of any complainant.

§ 105-8.170-6 Acceptance of complaint.

(a) The Official shall accept a complete complaint that is filed in accordance with §105-8.170-4 and over which the agency has jurisdiction. The Official shall notify the complainant and